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EasyIEP: SESIMS Replacement for Special Education Census Reporting

This notification is for all districts in Phase 3 and 4 of the Statewide Student Management System (SSMS) as well as those that are not currently in line to participate in this program. The purpose of this is to notify you that the system many of you currently use for Census and other State reporting purposes *(SESIMS)* is going to be replaced by the Special Education portion of SSMS which is *EasyIEP*. The dates for training your staff on how to use the new system for this purpose only are as follows:

(Please note the trainings are set by Field Service Center Region)
Shelby/Memphis – August 1, 2005
Southwest – August 1, 2005
Northwest – August 2, 2005
Mid Cumberland – August 3, 2005 (2 sessions)
South Central – August 4, 2005
Upper Cumberland – August 5, 2005
Southeast – August 8, 2005 (2 sessions)
East TN – August 10, 2005 (2 sessions)
First TN – August 9, 2005 (2 sessions)

The training is primarily for the Special Education Director and the person currently responsible for entering and tracking information in *SESIMS*. We ask that each district limit the attendees to a maximum of 2 people. The training will last approximately 3 hours. For those areas that have 2 sessions, these are duplicate sessions one will be in the morning and a second in the afternoon. You do not need to attend both sessions. We are finalizing the locations and exact times of these trainings and will be notifying everyone of this information as soon as it is available. Attendance at this training is considered necessary for each district to be able to properly utilize the replacement tool.

If you have questions or need additional information regarding this training please contact Natalie Gendernalik at ngendernalik@pcgus.com , or 800-973-7828/850-309-0631 ext. 153.

Network Operations

We conducted our second comprehensive performance assessment on April 27th. The results of this assessment are forthcoming.

All Phase II sites needing upgrades to T1 lines have either been upgraded or are pending delivery by the telephone companies.

We have been piloting QOS (bandwidth prioritization) in Sumner County. Since there are many ways to implement and configure QOS, the challenge has been determining the optimal

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method most suited to our environment and goals. We believe that we have finalized the required configuration. We are stress testing this configuration to ensure expected behavior during various scenarios.

Hardware and circuits are on order to complete upgrades at the Super POPs to insure network redundancy from the Super POPs to the State Data Center.

We are also wrapping up the development and implementation of our High Availability Architecture in the State Data Center. We expect completion of our Staging site within the next few weeks. The Production site will soon follow.

We are also aware that the 30 minute timeout is still an issue when trying to run reports, particularly ADM/ADA reports. The *Alteon* Load Balancers in the State Data Center cannot be set above a 30 minute limit. When our High Availability Architecture goes live, these limits can be extended on the new load balancers contained within this architecture. We are also working with *Century* to address the file size and calculation methodology on these reports to address the time required to run them.

Finally, we recently installed an *Oracle 10g* Reports Server to assist with reports processing. Since that installation, we have seen about an 80% improvement in the report creation process time and about a 75% decrease in the report size (Mb).

SSMS Training

• Phase I "Refresher" Training:

In response to your requests for re-training, a series of refresher WebEx sessions are available for the following modules:
§   Academic History
§   Attendance
§   Grade Book Portal
§   Grade Reporting

The first series of sessions will be offered during May/June and will be repeated during July/August. You may register for as many sessions as you like on each topic and you may include as many people as you like in your session. A district, however, may only register for one "slot" (connection) per session. Be aware that if you sign-up for the same module more than once, preference will be given to a district that is not already registered for that module. If you register for a session and are later unable to participate on that date, please cancel your registration as soon as possible to free-up that slot for others. Send an email to Joyce Martelli to cancel a registration.

We hope that offering multiple sessions for each module in two time frames will enable you to refresh your knowledge for upcoming year-end routines as well as to help prepare you for

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the start of the new school year. It is hoped that this approach will also enable you to utilize some of your in-service days to participate in these sessions.

We strongly encourage you to take full advantage of these sessions. For questions related to these training sessions, please contact Joyce Martelli with Century Consultants at jmartelli@centuryltd.com.

- Phase II Training:

Phase II school districts are in the process of implementing the new SSMS Star_Student software. Training sessions have occurred for the Database Administrator (DBA) and Scheduling areas. Currently, Phase II School districts are completing the Scheduling "Refresher" training sessions. This process began the week of April 25th and is tentatively scheduled to be completed the week of May 2nd. Phase I districts have completed their follow-up Scheduling sessions.

For the upcoming, July – August training sessions for Phase II (Attendance, Grade Book, Grade Reporting, Discipline & Medical), the regional training sites will be expanded to 15 locations. This will allow for smaller number of districts to report to one particular site and have the districts at each site decide when and where the training sessions will be held. The goal is to have the training sessions at each regional site prior to the first school district in that region starting back to school. The conversion to 15 sites will reduce the current average training class size from 16.7 people to 13.5 people.

One other item being finalized is establishing client representatives to work with the school districts to ensure that each school district is aware of the training date, time and location; find the best training location among the districts within the region if the recommended site is not a good fit; and be available to the district contact if any need arises. The client representative will also be the actual trainer at the regional site as well. This will allow each school district to build a better rapport with the trainers.

During the months of October and November, Phase II school districts will be trained on the Academic History module. Phase II districts will also be trained on Oracle Discoverer (by SDE), the query tool for local reporting needs. Additional information on those trainings will be forth coming.

Thank you for all that you do to make this project a success. More importantly though, thank you for all that you do everyday for the children of Tennessee!

Timothy K. Webb, Ed.D.
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